Saguaro National Park

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Saguaro National Park News Release

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JANUARY PROGRAMS OFFERED AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this winter that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

January 7 and 28 3:00 p.m. Silhouettes at Sundown 2½ hours, 2½ mile hike
Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. Reservations are required, call 733-5158. The January 28th hike starts at 3:30 p.m.

January 14 2:15 p.m. Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike 6½ to 7 hours, 8 miles This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360° view of the sunset; then descend by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy pace but is considered difficult due to the elevation gain and hiking after dark. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

January 15
3:00 p.m. Wildlife Rehabilitation Guest Speaker Janet Miller
Wildlife and humans often interact in hazardous ways. Sometimes animals are injured or orphaned. These
animals need to be rehabilitated before being re-released into the wild. Some never can be released. Come hear
about their natural history and hear the pros and cons of rehabilitation. Meet an Elf Owl, Great Horned Owl and a
Harris' Hawk up close. Program is wheelchair accessible.

January 15 4:15 p.m. Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows 2 mile hike
This easy 3½-hour stroll bridges sunset and darkness, letting hikers experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

January 16
3:30 p.m. Sunset Hike 3½ mile hike

This 3½-hour hike climbs 700 feet (with some switchbacks) before reaching a beautiful ridgeline for the sunset. The descent is by the light of the moon. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

January 17 4:15 p.m. Moon Take Night Make Day Hike 2½ mile hike
Hikers on this gentle, relatively flat 3-hour hike travel up a desert wash during the transition from day to night,
enjoy the sunset atop a hill, then return under the moonlight. Reservations are required – call 733-5158.

January 19 6:30 p.m. Moonrise Over the Mountains 45 minute patio talk
Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. This program is wheelchair accessible.

January 30 2:00 p.m. Saguaro Book Club Discussion & Nature Quest
This month we will be discussing Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv. The first hour will be spent discussing the book, followed by an easy 45 minute hike featuring the Whispering Rocks Nature Quest.

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Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

January 1, 8, 22 & 29

5:00 p.m.

Sunset Stroll 1/2 mile hike

Join a park ranger for a stroll up Tangue Verde Ridge to enjoy a Sonoran Desert sunset. Dress for the weather. wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water.

Jan. 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 & 28 10:00 a.m. Sonoran Lifestyles 1 mile walk

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

2:00 p.m.

Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?

short walk

Change is coming to the Cactus Forest and we can't do anything about it! But don't worry - change has been happening here for thousands of years. Come explore the life cycles of the saguaro cactus and the changing face of its Sonoran Desert home on this 1/4 mile, 90-minute walk.

January 5, 12 & 26

3:00 p.m.

People and Places of Saguaro's Past

Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the visitor center auditorium for this photo tour of the park's historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. Program is wheelchair accessible.

January 6

7:00 p.m. **Star Party**

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. Program is wheelchair accessible.

January 7, 14, 21 & 28

9:00 a.m.

Desert Bird Walk easy hike

Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

2:00 p.m.

Death by Fire

Illustrated Talk

NPS Fire Ecologist Perry Grissom helps the park's ecosystems keep their natural fire regimes. In the desert portions, that means keeping fire out, as well as non-native plants that can spread fire in the park. He will discuss buffelgrass's impact on the Sonoran Desert's plants, animals and human residents. Learn the results of recent research into fire behavior in buffelgrass. Program is wheelchair accessible.

January 14 & 28

7:00 p.m.

Night Walk

1 mile Hike Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, Reservations

are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm.

<u>Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers</u>

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)

2700 North Kinney Road

3693 South Old Spanish Trail

Tucson, AZ 85743

Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5158

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.wnpa.org

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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